



News Release

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Sexual contact with patient leads to King County dentist's license suspension

OLYMPIA — Charges of sexual misconduct have led the state Department of Health to immediately suspend the license of King County dentist Ashok Lalli (DE00005520).

Between August 2008 and July 2010, Lalli provided dental services on several occasions to a dental assistant who was also his patient. The charges say Lalli engaged in multiple acts of sexual misconduct with the patient, including groping her breasts and groin area, penetrating her with his fingers and forcing her to massage his penis. Lalli was the subject of a 2008 discipline order after he kissed one patient and touched another patient's chest and breast area.

Lalli can't practice in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and to ask for a hearing. Legal documents are available at the Provider Credential Search link on the [agency home page](#), (www.doh.wa.gov), or by calling 360-236-4700.

Consumers who believe a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call the Department of Health at 360-236-4700 to report their complaint. A [complaint form is also online](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Complaint.htm). The form can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the agency's Health Systems Quality Assurance division.

The Department of Health protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating health care providers' competency and quality. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care.

The [Department of Health website](#) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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